

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Northeastern Region

NOTES FROM THE AREA DIRECTOR

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

No. 1

October 16, 1972

The tumult and chaos of relocation has declined but not disappeared at the ARC. The changes were too numerous and in the eyes of many too drastic to be accomplished in less than a year. Improved planning and excellent cooperation from all those involved have done much to reduce the anguish of moving to new offices and laboratories. (We feel confident that the few dreadful exceptions to this bright and cheery statement are behind us).

Physical disarray is only one of several problems that we have had to face over the past three months. Many individuals have been called on to make major adjustments not only to new surroundings, but also to new associates,

Again, we can report some notable successes in organizing new laboratories, as well as several associations that will need further study (a euphemism for the fact that we do have a problem). On average, however, we have made surprising progress in putting it back together - thanks to the staff and not to the limited guidance received from the Director's Office.

This newsletter has been launched with one objective in mind - to keep employees and our administrators informed on happenings at the ARC. The news letter will appear bimonthly, at least until we have had an opportunity to evaluate its role within our new organization. It should help to remind us that we belong to one organization, ARS. Obviously, the effectiveness of the ARS program at Beltsville depends on the total effort of all Institutes and all Laboratories.

My personal thanks to each and every employee for their help during the first three months. There is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

Employee Information

Dr. R. E. Hardenburg of the Agricultural Marketing Research Institute has recently been appointed a member of Commission C-2, Food Science and Technology. The appointment was recommended by the U.S. National Committee for the International Institute of Refrigeration, which comes under the National Research Council.

Dr. F. B. Abeles, Plant Physiologist in the Air Pollution Laboratory, left USDA to join the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

Dr. R. W. Yaklich and Mr. Charles Bare are Plant Physiologists who have recently joined the Pesticide Action Laboratory, working on production control of Narcotic plants.

Dr. P. G. Bartels from the University of Arizona is a visiting scientist in the Pesticide Action Laboratory. He will be working on the biological action of lipid soluble herbicides.

Two Presidential Interns are working in the Pesticide Action Laboratory. Dr. Richard W. Hammerschlag is a Plant Physiologist working on the mechanism of herbicide action. Dr. Benjamin Coffman is a research agronomist working on production control of Narcotic plants.

Dr. R. E. White from Brisbane, Australia, is a visiting scientist in the Agricultural Chemical Management Laboratory. He will be working with Dr. Harry M. Kunishi on phosphorus adsorption in soils as related to runoff water quality.

Honors and Awards:

Dr. Abdul-Baki, of the Post-Harvest Physiology Laboratory, was presented the 1972 National Cannery Association Award. The award was given by the American Society for Horticultural Science in recognition of Dr. Abdul-Baki's excellent research paper on the biochemistry of lima bean seeds.

Dr. R. L. Steere, Leader of the Plant Virology Laboratory in the Plant Protection Institute recently received two awards from the American Phytopathological Society. The award of Fellow was given for outstanding innovative research and leadership in the fields of virology and electron microscopy. The Ruth Allen Award was given because of his freeze-etch and freeze-fracturing techniques for revealing ultrastructure in biological specimens in the electron microscope. The meeting was held in Mexico City.

Dr. H. W. Hawk, Leader of the Reproductive Laboratory in the Animal Physiology and Genetics Institute, received the American Cynamid Co. Award for outstanding research in reproductive physiology and endocrinology. This was presented at the National Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Putting Research to Work

Dr. M. S. Schechter, Leader of the Chemical and Biophysical Control Laboratory was the U.S. representative at the Annual Meeting of the Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council. The meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark.

Mr. Morton Jacobson, Leader of the Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, was invited to present a paper at the Advance Study Institute on the Chemistry of Insects. This Institute was sponsored by the Scientific Affairs Division of NATO. It was held in Varenna, Italy, September 14-19, 1972.

Situations and Events:

On October 18, some 400 people will be invited to the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville to attend an Information Day on research on land application of sewage sludge. The staff of the Waste Management Laboratory will discuss results of laboratory and field research. Methods for land disposal of raw and dewatered sludge are being studied in detail. Discussion will include health, safety, odor, crop response, and possible pollution of soil, groundwater and surface water. The work is cooperative with Maryland Environmental Services, the District of Columbia, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

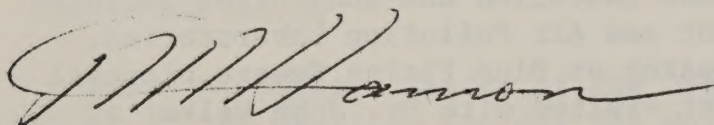
Visiting Dignitaries:

Dr. Prida Karnasut, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Thailand, visited with Drs. A. A. Hanson, P. A. Putnam and Quentin Jones on September 27. He was mainly interested in the Narcotics Program of USDA.

On October 4, fifteen Japanese journalists visited the Agricultural Marketing Research and the Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institutes.

Mr. J. R. Coulson, Leader of the Beneficial Insect Introduction Laboratory, was recently visited by Dr. Balint Nagy, Director of Plant Protection, Hungarian Agricultural and Food and Plant Protection Ministry, and Mr. J. A. Hill, Vice President of Corn Production System Inc., Rosemont, Illinois. These visitors were interested in USDA research activities in the use of natural enemies for the control of agricultural pests. Dr. Nagy expects to send an entomologist to the United States to learn more about current research and techniques in biological control.

The International Tobacco Science Congress (CORESTA) will meet in Williamsburg, Virginia, from October 22-28. Many scientists from all over the world will attend this meeting. A post-conference tour of CORESTA members is planned to visit major tobacco research activities and industrial centers in the United States. Approximately 80 visitors are scheduled to visit the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on October 30, Monday. An extensive program has been organized involving scientists from three Institutes to discuss and demonstrate research activities relating to tobacco.



A. A. Hanson
Acting Area Director

Dr. Morton Beroza, Leader of the Organic Chemical Synthesis Laboratory, was invited to speak to the Graduate School of the Department of Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, on "The Use of Disparlure The Sex Attractant of the Gypsy Moth, for Control of the Insect".

On September 27, Mr. W. H. Arminger of the Biological Waste Management Laboratory and C. S. Britt were invited to meet with the Maryland Land Reclamation Committee at Westernport, Maryland. Mr. Arminger gave a slide presentation covering the strip mine revegetation research at Beltsville, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Land Reclamation Committee expressed great interest and appreciation of our research. Plans for future extension of this work will be developed.

Three members of the AMRI have received compliments from the Secretary of Agriculture for their conscientious service on the marketing task forces which were appointed last spring. Dr. R. E. Hardenburg served on the apple marketing team. Mr. John Hamann participated in the work of the egg marketing team. And, Dr. Anthony Kotula worked on the pork marketing team. The Secretary was very pleased with the productive effort of these scientists. The reports from these teams may significantly influence the future direction of some of our marketing research efforts.

Mr. James Velasco, of the Seed Quality Laboratory, has developed a unique method for detecting low quantities of aflatoxin in corn. During a recent collaborative study involving three different methods, Velasco's was found to be most sensitive. AMS has asked for assistance in applying Mr. Velasco's techniques for grading and inspection purposes.

The results of an ARS study of the wholesale food distribution facilities in the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton area were presented at a public meeting in Wilkes-Barre on September 21, 1972. Attended by area industrial development leaders and food warehousing/distribution facility owners, the session covered a proposed plan for a new 125-acre wholesale food distribution center for the area. Initially, the \$14 million center would house over 50 food wholesalers and have the capability of expansion to over 100. Several sites in the region, which are suitable for locating the center, were noted by Richard K. Overheim and Kenneth H. Brasfield, of our Food Distribution Research Laboratory, who gave the ARS report.

The October 2 Meeting of the University-EPA-USDA Coordinating Committee for Environmental Quality, Research, Extension Education and Monitoring included visits to the Biological Waste Management and Air Pollution Laboratories. Their first stop was to see the EPA research at Blue Plains Sewage Disposal Plant in Washington, D.C. The group next visited with Dr. John Walker at the sludge disposal field research installation. The last stop was the Air Pollution Laboratory where Dr. Howard Heggstad explained his research. The Committee was well impressed with the research underway.

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NOTES FROM THE AREA DIRECTOR

No. 2

November 2, 1972

With our second note from the Director's Office, perhaps we should review the objectives of this communication. As stated by the Deputy, "these reports are intended to provide information useful to ARS personnel at all levels of the organization." In order to be effective, we would appreciate any comments, criticisms, or suggestions that our readers may have for improvement. Please transmit these comments to the Director's Office in any manner that is convenient. The ultimate aim is to have as concise and as useful a report as possible, and our success will depend as much on the input of the staff as upon the compilation of the information.

Employee Information

A commercial model of Karl Norris' instrument for determining the quality of grain (the Grain Quality Analyzer) recently was named one of 1972's most significant new technical products by Industrial Research, Inc., in their tenth annual I-R 100 competition. The Grain Quality Analyzer is an electro-optical instrument that measures the reflectance of a ground grain sample at selected wavelengths in the infrared spectrum and provides a direct readout of percent moisture, protein, and oil content. Karl Norris is Leader of the Instrumentation Research Laboratory, AMRI. Winners of the 1972 I-R 100 competition were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, including such familiar names as Dr. Wernher von Braun, William P. Lear, and Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg.

Mr. John F. Freshwater of the Food Distribution Research Laboratory, AMRI, has received a certificate of appreciation for his participation in a seminar sponsored by the U.S. Army. The certificate, which was awarded by Major General John D. McLaughlin at Fort Lee, Virginia, on September 28, 1972, states in part; "For an outstanding presentation at the Food Service Education and Training Seminar."

Honors and Awards

Dr. Henry M. Cathey, Leader of the Ornamentals Laboratory, PGGI, was named a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science. The honor was conferred in recognition of his outstanding research contributions to horticultural science, particularly on the interaction of light and growth-controlling chemicals as they affect plant growth.

Cooperative Activities

Dr. A. M. Heimpel, Leader of the Insect Pathology Laboratory, PPI, attended a final reporting session from 9-17 to 9-20, 1972, at NASA, Houston, Texas. He contributed to the program describing his results in the examinations of strains of the insect pathogen Bacillus thuringiensis that has been exposed to radiation and deep space conditions in the Meed Apparatus operated during the Apollo 16 space flight to the moon. Although some organisms sent up on this experiment were affected, no detectable changes were found in the exposed strains of B. t. This work was done in collaboration with the Lunar Receiving Laboratory, Manned Spacecraft Center, NASA, Houston, Texas.

Dr. A. B. Borkovec, Leader of the Insect Chemosterilants Laboratory, AEQI, was invited by Dr. V. Horak, Professor of Chemistry at the Georgetown University, to present a seminar on Chemical and Biochemical Aspects of Chemosterilants on October 19.

An ARS study to determine the need for improved wholesale floral marketing facilities in Los Angeles, California, has been enthusiastically endorsed by Southern California's floricultural industry. A committee to coordinate the study has been appointed by the Southern California Floral Association, The American Florists' Exchange, and the Southern California Flower Growers, Inc. The project, which was requested by the Southern California Flower Growers, Inc., has been initiated and is being led by Gerald A. Gange, marketing specialist, of the Food Distribution Laboratory, AMRI. About two-hundred local wholesalers and grower-wholesalers are expected to participate in the study.

Mr. Jack R. Coulson, Leader of the Beneficial Insect Introduction Laboratory, attended the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Plant Control Section, Inter-agency Research Advisory Committee Meeting at Houston, Texas, October 11-13, 1972. This meeting was attended by representatives from the Corps of Engineers, USDA, federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, and other governmental and private groups involved in aquatic weed control operations and research. Mr. Coulson presented a paper describing the potential environmental effects of the Argentine weevil, Neochetina eichhorniae, recently released in Florida (and now in Texas and Louisiana) against waterhyacinth. This weevil is the first of several host specific insects studied by ARS entomologists in South America proposed for eventual release in an attempt to provide biological control of waterhyacinth, the number one aquatic weed problem in the United States. These studies have been fully supported by the Corps of Engineers and by the Florida Department of Natural Resources.

Dr. C. W. Sabrosky, Director, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, attended the 17th International Congress of Zoology in Monaco, September 23-30, 1972. Dr. Sabrosky is a commissioner of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature which met concurrently with the Congress. This critical meeting was attended by the largest number of commissioners ever to come together.

A number of individual conferences of the commission, as well as formal meetings, resulted in important decisions on changes in the code and constitution of the commission. Because this was the last International Congress of Zoology, a decision was made to invite the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) to assume formal sponsorship of the commission.

Putting Research to Work

Representatives from four states, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Virginia met with Dr. George E. Cantwell of the Insect Pathology Laboratory, PPI, to discuss and tentatively agree on a cooperative honey bee disease control program. This project, to be started this spring, will test the effectiveness of bee disease control methods on a state wide basis. When brought under control, this reduced disease incidence will result in greater productivity to the bee and hence the farmer.

Dr. J. D. Menzies, Leader of the Biological Waste Management Laboratory, has been named ARS representative to the Sludge and Effluent Recycling Subcommittee of the University-EPA-USDA Coordinating Committee for Environmental Quality Research, Extension Education and Monitoring. This interagency subcommittee meets periodically to coordinate research and outline research needs.

Dr. T. C. Tso, Leader of the Tobacco Laboratory, PGGI, is a member of the Advisory Group on Carcinogenesis Program of the National Cancer Institute, HEW. During a recent meeting in San Antonio, Texas, two scientists under National Cancer Institute Contract reported finding a wide range of Dimethylnitrosamine (DMNA) in tobacco smoke from commercial tobacco products. Since most nitrosamines are carcinogens, these findings are of great concern. Because of the wide range of variation in the amount of DMNA, Dr. Tso advised the NCI Contractors to re-examine their findings. Further research is planned to establish the production factors which may be associated with nitrosamines in smoke.

Dr. H. E. Heggstad, Leader of the Air Pollution Laboratory AEQI, represented USDA on the Interagency Committee on Revising Air Quality Criteria for Sulfur Oxides. This meeting was held September 15.

Dr. Louise M. Russell of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, IIBII, recently returned from a trip to Australia, New Zealand and Tahiti. She attended the 14th International Congress of Entomology in Canberra, Australia, where she presented a paper "The Classification of the Aleyrodidae". She gave an invited paper "Polymorphism in Aphids" at the 21st Anniversary Conference of the Entomological Society of New Zealand. This was held at Christchurch. She also participated in an Aphid Symposium. Dr. Russell collected hemipterous insects in each country visited.

Situations and Events

Dr. A. M. Heimpel, Leader of the Insect Pathology Laboratory, PPI, attended a New York Academy of Sciences Conference on the Regulation of Insect Populations by Microbial Agents, October 4-6, 1972. Other USDA staff present were Dr. E. F. Knipling, Beltsville, Md., and Dr. Lee K. Bulla, Peoria, Illinois. The meeting provided an excellent review of the current work on microbial control of insects and the proceedings will be published within a year's time by the New York Academy of Sciences. A press conference was held at noon on October 6 for science writers of the newspapers.

On October 18, some 250 people attended the Information Day on research on land application of sewage sludge. The staff of the Biological Waste Management Laboratory and others are to be congratulated for conducting an outstanding field day. Many words of praise were received from the visitors. Two television stations covered this program.

Visiting Officials

Dr. Sidney Kantor, American Cyanamid Company, visited researchers in the Histoprotzoan Diseases Laboratory at the Animal Parasitology Institute October 16-18, 1972. His main purpose was to learn techniques of cultivating coccidia. Between October 30 and November 3, 1972, Dr. Robert L. Slater, Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research, will also visit personnel of this Laboratory. His purpose is to gain experience and insight into techniques and methodologies associated with the development of coccidia in cell cultures.

The President's Commodity Credit Corporation Advisory Board visited the Agricultural Research Center on October 26. They were accompanied by ARS Administrator Mr. T. W. Edminster during their visit. Selected programs in AEQI, PPI, and PGGI were discussed and visits were made to three laboratories with the program being coordinated by Dr. John Moseman.

We were visited by a delegation consisting of about 80 members of the International Tobacco Science Congress (CORESTA) on October 30. This well organized visit was coordinated by Dr. T. C. Tso and included visits and demonstrations by laboratories in the AEQI, PGGI, and Plant Physiology Institutes.

Members of the Ruminant Helminthic Diseases Laboratory, Animal Parasitology Institute, were visited on September 25-26 by the following representatives of the American Cyanamid Company: Dr. M. Marchesi, Technical Director of Cyanamid's Brazilian Subsidiary; Dr. A. Ramirez Miller, Technical Director for Cyanamid's Animal Products in Latin America; Dr. John Pankavich, Anthelmintics Unit Leader of Cyanamid's Princeton Laboratory; and Dr. I. B. Wood, Manager of Animal Research and Development. The group toured non-restricted facilities of the Institute and was briefed on the Laboratory's

programs and procedures involved in studies on anthelmintic evaluations, in vitro cultivation of nematodes, and immunization of remnants against nematode parasites.

On October 10 and 11, Dr. Branko Kurelec of the Institute of Biology, University of Zagreb, visited with Dr. H. Herlich, Leader of the Ruminant Helminthic Diseases Laboratory, and Dr. R. D. Romanowski, Biochemist in the Non-Ruminant Helminthic Diseases Laboratory at the Animal Parasitology Institute. Dr. Kurelec discussed his PL-480 experimental techniques for evaluating chemical activity in vitro and in vivo against liver flukes.

Dr. Pablo Correa G., Chief, Department of Virology and Bacteriology, National Institute for Investigations on the Diseases of Animals, Palo Alto, Mexico, will be visiting the Laboratory of Haemoprotozoan Diseases, API, to observe research on the rapid card agglutination test for the diagnosis of anaplasmosis in cattle.

Other Information

Dr. S. C. King, Acting Deputy Administrator, has been authorized to approve attendance at National Meetings. AD-179's for attendance at these meetings should be in the Area Director's Office 40 days in advance of the meeting, so they can be approved and forwarded to Dr. King's Office 30 days in advance of the meeting.

The Beltsville area will be called the Agricultural Research Center. For ease of identification, everything west of the B&O Railroad will be called ARC-West and everything east of the Railroad will be called ARC-East.

The Senate Appropriations Committee reported and the full Senate passed HR 17034, FY 1973 supplemental appropriations. The bill includes \$300,000 for research on erosion resistant varieties of wheat by the Agricultural Research Service.

Representative Denholm introduced HR 17104 to provide for the decentralization of the agencies of the Federal Government by locating the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the heartland of America; to the Committee on Agriculture.

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NOTES FROM THE AREA DIRECTOR

No. 3

November 16, 1972

Employee Information

Dr. David G. McHaffey, formerly of the Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Alabama, recently joined the staff of the Biological Evaluation of Chemicals Laboratory. Dr. McHaffey is working on an intensified boll weevil chemo-sterilant project in cooperation with the Insect Chemosterilants Laboratory, AEQI, and the USDA Boll Weevil Research and Rearing Laboratories, State College, Mississippi. Specifically, the project consists of developing a screening procedure for the sexual sterilization of the boll weevil by chemicals in a gaseous phase and to determine the physiological, cytological, and behavioral effects of such treatment.

Mrs. Joann L. Alexander, a Biological Laboratory Technician transferred from the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, to assist in the boll weevil project.

Dr. B. Y. Endo, Nematologist, Plant Nematology Laboratory, attended a seminar series on "Effects of Technological Development" at the Executive Seminar Center, King's Point, New York, October 9-20, 1972, sponsored by the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Thor Lehnert, Entomologist at the Bioenvironmental Bee Laboratory, PPI, has been elected President of the Professional Apiculturists Society for 1972-1973.

Mr. Elton Herbert, Cpt. U.S. Army, has returned from military furlough to his duties as Entomologist with the Bioenvironmental Bee Laboratory, PPI. Mr. Herbert has also elected to continue his training program at the University of Maryland Graduate School for completion of his doctorate degree.

Dr. J. M. Good, Leader, Plant Nematology Laboratory, PPI, represented the Department at an organizational meeting that proposes the establishment of a committee on testing methods for pesticides under the auspices of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). The meeting was in Philadelphia on October 10, 1972. The scope of the proposed ASTM committee would be "Develop standard definitions, classifications, biological test methods, and recommended procedures for pesticides, biological agents, and devices related to efficacy, safety, and impact in all environments."

Dr. H. Shimanuki of the Bioenvironmental Bee Laboratory, PPI, has been named Chairman of the Parasitology Group of the Bee Pathology Commission of Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers Association. Scientists

from India, Scotland, Yugoslavia and the USSR comprise the membership of this committee. In his position as Chairman, Dr. Shimanuki will be expected to supply guidance and establish policy on this phase of bee pathology for this international organization.

Mrs. MayBelle Chitwood, recently retired from the Animal Parasitology Institute was the recipient of the 1972 Anniversary Award of the Helminthological Society of Washington. The award was given for outstanding service to the Society and leadership in research on nematode parasites of both animals and plants. The presentation was made during a meeting of the Society at the Institute on November 17.

Dr. Phil Sonnet of the Organic Chemicals Synthesis Laboratory was invited by the Nassau-Suffolk County (Long Island, N. Y.) subsection of the American Chemical Society to address them on the subject of insect juvenile hormones on November 15. The talk reviewed the rapid development of this field since 1967 and described the roles which ARS, private industry and universities have played thus far.

On October 31-November 2, Mr. B. L. Glass of the Agricultural Chemicals Management Laboratory attended the Eastern Analytical Symposium in Atlantic City, organized by the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, the American Chemical Society and the American Microchemical Society. At this meeting Mr. Glass was presented with a Student Award from the Baltimore-Washington Section of the Society of Applied Spectroscopy, recognizing his work on Low Temperature Spectroscopy in his recent training program at Howard University.

On October 16 and 17, several members of the AEQI staff attended a workshop on Pesticides in Aquatic Sediments at Rockville, organized by the Research Panel of the Federal Working Group on Pest Control. Those present included Dr. A. W. Taylor and Mr. J. H. Caro of the Agricultural Chemicals Management Laboratory, Dr. C. S. Helling and Dr. A. R. Isensee of the Pesticide Degradation Laboratory, and Dr. Milton Schecter of the Biological and Chemical Control Laboratory. Dr. Taylor was Chairman of the first session of the meeting.

On October 6, Dr. A. W. Taylor attended the fall meeting of the Fertilizer Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. At this meeting Dr. Taylor presented an invitational talk describing the ARS reorganization and its impact on future research in the ARS on soil fertility problems.

Dr. Louis Feinstein recently visited Rome, Italy, as a member of the FAO Working Party on Official Control of Pesticides - Section B - Specifications, which met at the FAO Headquarters, October 12-21, 1972. Over 200 FAO specifications were reviewed, discussed, and revised. In addition, the Working Party members reviewed a large number of AID specifications for pesticides which had been submitted to FAO.

Drs. Meyer Schwarz and Rolland M. Waters, Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, have been appointed evening teaching assistants in Chemistry at the University College, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

A new book entitled "Insect Sex Pheromones," by Mr. Martin Jacobson, Leader of Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, has just been published by Academic Press. It covers the world literature on the chemistry, biology, and use of these extremely potent agents for insect survey and control.

Honors and Awards

Dr. George L. Steffens, Plant Physiologist in the Plant Hormone & Regulators Laboratory, Plant Physiology Institute, received the Phillip Morris Inc. Sixth Annual Award for Distinguished Service in Tobacco Science. This award was presented on October 24 for his contributions to the use of growth regulators in tobacco culture and his leadership role in the Regional Tobacco Growth Regulators Committee. He is the first ARS scientist to be so honored.

The Land of Lincoln Soybean Association has selected Karl H. Norris to receive its Education and Research Award for 1972. The Award recognizes Mr. Norris' research in developing an instrument to test the oil and protein content of soybeans to help soybean farmers increase their net profits. Mr. Norris, Leader of the Instrumentation Research Laboratory, AMRI, accepted the Award in Chicago on November 14, 1972.

Cooperative Activities

Mr. Nathan Green and Mr. Martin Jacobson, Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, have been conducting valuable research with entomologists of the Israel Ministry of Agriculture on the use of natural and synthetic sex attractants to survey and control cotton pests common to both the United States and Israel. The studies have already resulted in the development of several materials capable of disrupting communication between the sexes of the pink bollworm moth, one of the insects responsible for millions of dollars worth of damage to cotton plants in both countries.

Mr. Martin Jacobson, Leader of the Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, has isolated from the female gypsy moth, identified, and prepared synthetically a compound capable of inhibiting the growth of a human tumor system, Walker intramuscular carcinosarcoma 256, in rats. The work was carried out in cooperation with the natural products program of the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. The characterization of this compound, of a type never before shown to have anti-tumor activity, provides a valuable lead for preparing related compounds possibly possessing higher activity in this and other tumor systems.

Cooperative efforts between the Extension Service and the Agricultural Research Service have resulted in the availability of color slides showing air pollution injury to vegetation. If interested, contact the Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. The entire set can be purchased for \$18.50, or the individual subsets for \$13. A narrative guide is provided to identify the subject matter on each slide. There are three subsets: (1) Subject A, (35 slides) Air Pollution of Vegetables and Fruits; (2) Subject B, (36 slides) Air Pollution on Field Crops; (3) Subject 3, (34 slides) Air Pollution on Ornamental Plants and Trees. These slide sets were assembled by R. K. Howell and H. E. Heggstad, Air Pollution Laboratory, AEQI, and H. E. Smith and O. U. Bay, USDA Extension Service, Washington, D. C. About half of the slides were contributed by Drs. Howell and Heggstad; the remainder are from cooperating research and extension workers throughout the country.

Putting Research to Work

Mr. P. L. Breakiron of the Transportation & Packaging Research Laboratory reports that the first commercially produced prototype of a USDA refrigerated van made its debut at Transpo 72. It was part of a total systems approach to get better air circulation in transport equipment used for shipping perishables. The 40' prototype van container was built by Trailmobile, Inc. It used commercially available components to achieve many design concepts envisaged by ARS engineers.

Mr. K. H. Brasfield, Leader, Food Distribution Laboratory, reports that New York City plans to build a \$37 million deepwater container pier at the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center. Construction of the pier would create 2,000 new jobs and it would handle 65 percent of the total meat imports to the northeastern United States. With this new facility, the Hunts Point Food Center would become "the world's busiest food distribution center," according to Mayor Lindsay. The Hunts Point Food Distribution Center was planned after ARS studies reported in MRR's 389, 556, and 561. Its first section, covering 126 acres, officially opened in May 1969. Additional sections which will complete the 350-acre food center are now under construction.

The anthracnose resistant strains of alfalfa developed by the Applied Plant Genetics Laboratory, were cited as an example of how intensive breeding programs have expedited the introduction of new varieties. Dr. Russell R. Billing of the American Seed Trade Association recently wrote Dr. Ned Bayley thanking Agriculture for their contribution to new valuable strains of plants through cooperation in the regional research projects.

On November 6, three officials of Savannah Food and Industries, Inc., met in Hyattsville with John C. Bouma and James N. Morris, Jr., Market Operations Research Laboratory; Jack L. Runyan, Food Distribution Research Laboratory; and Dale L. Anderson, National Program Staff. The industry people were interested in evaluating a new concept for distributing groceries from manufacturer to wholesale warehouse.

Karl A. Hoke of the Transportation & Packaging Research Laboratory is a member of a joint railroad industry-ARS task force studying the ways to reduce the \$10,000,000 annual losses in shipping fresh meats by railroad. Railroad participation in the research is being coordinated by the Association of American Railroads. Mr. Kenneth J. Weibel, Special Representative of the Freight Loss and Damage Prevention Section of the Association, spent several days in Hyattsville this week reviewing the data gathered by the task force with Mr. Hoke.

C. J. Nicholas of the Transportation & Packaging Research Laboratory, recently returned from Europe where he reviewed the outturn of a series of experimental shipments of California iceberg lettuce to overseas commissaries of the U.S. armed forces in Germany. He also visited Stockholm, Sweden, where he met with the FAS agricultural attache and lettuce receivers to determine the feasibility of making experimental commercial shipments to those markets. Mr. Nicholas also visited the ARS Rotterdam field station and laboratory to discuss joint research with Dr. Chace and Mr. Hinds of that facility.

Visiting Dignitaries

Dr. Shooichi Matsunaka, Chief, 6th Laboratory of Plant Physiology, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Konosu, Saitama, Japan, visited with Mr. Jack R. Coulson, Insect Identification & Beneficial Insect Introduction Institute, October 26. Dr. Matsunaka has visited various individuals and laboratories throughout the United States that are engaged in weed control research activities, and he is particularly interested in initiating a biological control of weeds program in Japan. Mr. Coulson and Dr. Matsunaka discussed means of cooperation between his organization and ARS in biological control of weeds research.

Dr. Alojzy Ramisz, Director of the District Laboratory of Veterinary Hygiene, Cracow, Poland, visited the Equine Piroplasmiasis Project at the Animal Parasitology Institute on November 6-8, 1972. His main purpose was to receive training in antigen production and in conducting the complement-fixation test for equine piroplasmiasis. During his visit, Dr. Ramisz also discussed items of mutual interest with personnel engaged in anaplasmosis and helminthological research at the Institute.

Mrs. Alice Djigounian, Technical Information Specialist from U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 in Cairo, is visiting the Index-Catalogue of Medical and Veterinary Zoology at the Animal Parasitology Institute for five weeks. She is checking references and collecting information on ticks and tick-borne diseases for a comprehensive bibliography on this subject to be published by NAMRU-3.

Dr. Martin Gordon, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Yale University Medical School, revisited the Animal Parasitology Institute on October 27. He gave an illustrated talk on "Newer Devices in Medicine Pertaining to

Animal Diseases." He also showed a training film "The Infiltrators - Nematodes" which incorporated sequences filmed earlier at the Institute with the cooperation of Drs. Herlich, F. W. Douvres, F. G. Tromba, and R. S. Isenstein. The film, which has won numerous awards, acknowledges the contributions of these staff members and the cooperation of Dr. A. O. Foster, former Director.

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No. 4

December 7, 1972

Employee Information

As a result of the recent action of the Executive Committee of the Western Hemisphere Regional Section of the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC), Dr. Reece I. Sailer, Chairman, Insect Identification and Beneficial Insect Introduction Institute, has been appointed "member-at-large" of the Section's Governing Board.

Mr. A. S. Michael, Leader, Bioenvironmental Bee Laboratory, and Thor Lehnert, in his capacity as President of the Professional Apiculturists Society, attended meetings of the National Steering Committee of bee oriented associations on November 9-10. This meeting was also attended by Dr. M. D. Levin, National Program Staff Specialist for Bees, and officers of national and regional industry associations. This was an organizational meeting to establish a central steering committee or coordination committee to act as spokesman in all matters relating to the industry, including research.

Dr. H. Shimanuki of the Bioenvironmental Bee Laboratory chaired a meeting of the Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Nosema Disease of the Honey Bee in Montreal, Canada, November 26, 1972.

On October 19, Dr. William E. Robbins, Insect Physiology Laboratory, attended the Eastern Branch, Entomological Society of America Meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where he delivered an invitational paper on the basic and practical aspects of recent research on insect steroids at the Section B. Physiology, Biochemistry and Toxicology.

On November 26-30, Dr. James A. Svoboda and Dr. William S. Bowers, Insect Physiology Laboratory, attended the joint meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Entomology Society of Quebec and Entomological Society of Canada, held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Dr. Svoboda delivered an invitational paper entitled the "Utilization and Metabolism of Plant Sterols by Insects," at the symposium on "Steroid Synthesis and Metabolism in Insects," in which the current status of various aspects of steroid biochemistry in insects was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Bowers delivered a paper on the chemistry of aphid alarm pheromones.

Dr. William S. Bowers of the Insect Physiology Laboratory, has resigned to accept a position with Cornell University at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York. While at the Insect Physiology Laboratory, Dr. Bowers made a number of important research contributions in

the isolation, identification and synthesis of juvenile hormone compounds that offer promise as insect control chemicals and in the isolation and identification of chemicals with insect pheromone activity. While Dr. Bowers will be missed by his coworkers here, we know he will be an asset to the University's staff.

Dr. R. J. Gagne and C. W. Sabrosky of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory contributed papers before the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Montreal, November 26-30. Dr. J. M. Kingsolver participated in the annual meeting of the Coleopterists Society to discuss progress being made in the automation of a new catalog of North American beetles; and Miss Louise M. Russell presented an invitational paper and chaired a symposium entitled "Current Research on Aphids."

Dr. Curtis W. Sabrosky, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, attended the 14th International Congress of Entomology, Canberra, Australia, August 21-30, 1972. He chaired a symposium on "The importance of systematics for biological control" in the Section on Biological Control, and presented a paper on "Entomology and today's problems in zoological nomenclature" in the Section on Taxonomy. He is a member of the Permanent Committee for the International Congresses of Entomology, which accepted the joint invitation of the National Academy of Sciences and the Entomological Society of America to hold the 15th Congress in Washington, D.C., in August 1976. At the final Plenary Session, he presented, by request of the President of the Permanent Committee, the formal invitation for the 15th Congress. He also attended the 21st Anniversary Conference of the New Zealand Entomological Society at Christchurch, New Zealand, and conducted a special seminar on zoological nomenclature.

Dr. H. Herlich, Leader, Ruminant Helminthic Diseases Laboratory, has been elected President of the Helminthological Society of Washington for 1973. Dr. R. S. Isenstein, Zoologist, Non-Ruminant Helminthic Diseases Laboratory, will serve as Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Mrs. Otelia F. Bodenstein, Research Entomologist of the Biological Evaluation of Chemicals Laboratory, has been appointed as an advisory member on the Scientific Committee of the Insecticide Division of the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association (CSMA). She will replace Mr. John H. Fales who retired from the Department on June 30, 1972. Mrs. Bodenstein will provide ARS participation in advising the Committee on standardization of equipment, methods, strains of insects, and standard insecticides for comparison purposes to be used in developing safe and effective house-hold aerosols and sprays for insect control.

Dr. G. F. Sprague, one of our new retirees - and collaborator, has accepted an assignment as the editor to revise the monograph "Corn and Corn Improvement." Early in December he will attend a high lysine conference held by CIMMYT in Mexico at the request of AID. This conference will review progress achieved through breeding, adaptation and nutrition studies on high lysine corn and consider pilot studies in developing countries of the world. Dr. Sprague is also serving as Chairman, Section of Applied Biology, National Academy of Science. (This schedule seemingly would challenge an "unretiree"!)

Dr. C. H. Hanson, Leader of Applied Genetics Laboratory, is the editor of "Alfalfa Science and Technology," a monograph on alfalfa just off the press. He was ably assisted by Mrs. Effie Legg. The 812-page book with 74 chapter authors and coauthors was published by the American Society of Agronomy. Dr. Hanson also recently completed a 3-year term of office with the Crop Science Society of America in connection with serving as its President in 1971.

Dr. William W. Cantelo, Research Entomologist with the Vegetables Laboratory, attended a Seminar on Executive Development, October 1-6 at Front Royal, Virginia.

Honors and Awards

At the recent annual meeting of the Mycological Society of America, Dr. Marie L. Farr, Mycology Laboratory, was inducted as Vice President. Dr. Farr previously has served as Councilor and also on several committees of the Mycological Society.

Mr. John A. Stevenson, Collaborator, National Fungus Collections, recently received a special Award of Merit for "Distinguished Service to Tropical Plant Pathology" from the Caribbean Division of The American Phytopathological Society. The citation is based on Mr. Stevenson's 60 years of collaboration, cooperation, assistance, and service as an expert on tropical American plant diseases, fungi, and mycological literature.

Cooperative Activities

Dr. L. B. Crittenden of the Avian Physiology Laboratory at Beltsville was invited to participate in the IV Lepetit Colloquium "Possible Episomes in Eukaryotes" held in Cocoyoc, Mexico, November 13-15. He presented data which showed that genes of the chicken regulate the full expression of latent RNA tumor viruses. These data and research by other workers with mice and chickens provide some of the best evidence that cancer virus genes may be integrated into the host genetic material and transmitted from generation to generation. It is clear that the chicken continues to be one of the best model systems for basic studies of virus-induced cancer.

A group of undergraduates under the supervision of Dr. M. R. Teel, Department of Plant Science, College of Agricultural Science, University of Delaware, Newark, included the facilities of the Vegetable Laboratory in their October 20 visit to ARC. Drs. Allan Stoner, Robert Goth, and Lind Sanford explained the vegetable research program to the group during a tour of the greenhouses and laboratories. Following the ARC visit, Dr. Teel wrote, "I've never seen students give such undivided attention to a program."

The Refrigeration Research Foundation has offered to cooperate with the Transportation & Packaging Laboratory on research to determine the feasibility of freezing pork products in pallet containers. The objectives of the study

are to reduce the packaging, handling, and freezing costs for the meat. The Foundation proposes to arrange for industry cooperation by having selected freezing plants make their facilities and equipment available for the research. In addition, the Foundation would provide seed money for the research by paying the travel costs for the researchers assigned to the work.

Drs. Richard H. Foote and Curtis W. Sabrosky of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, attended a day-long program comprising the dedication of the new Frost Entomological Museum at Pennsylvania State University, October 26, 1972. At an afternoon Colloquium, Dr. Sabrosky presented an invitational address on "Insect Systematics and Biological Control."

A cooperative project has been established between Oregon State University and the Haemoprotozoan Diseases Laboratory to determine whether American bison are carriers of anaplasmosis in Oregon. Approximately 100 bison will be tested by the inoculation of pooled samples of their blood into susceptible calves. Serologic studies on the test calves will be done here at Beltsville.

Drs. R. W. Carlson, D. R. Smith, and E. L. Todd of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, visited with scientists of the Canada Department of Agriculture in Ottawa, Canada, for a week during November and studied type-specimens and other material deposited in the Canadian National Collection.

Dr. A. M. Heimpel, Leader, Insect Pathology Laboratory, has just returned from a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, November 21-27, 1972, held under the auspices of the FAO/WHO to investigate the use of insect viruses for control of insects both in agriculture and forestry and for control of vectors of diseases affecting man and animals. A full report complete with recommendation and conclusions will be published shortly by the World Health Organization and anyone interested in these findings should contact Dr. Heimpel.

Dr. Robert Faust, Research Entomologist, Insect Pathology Laboratory, represented the Laboratory as a consultant to Drs. T. Hosoe, J. Yonezawa, Y. Suzuki and K. Shimizu of the Toagosei Chemical Industry LTD., Tokyo, Japan, which is considering the production of Bacillus thuringiensis on a commercial basis for control of Lepidopterous pests in Japan. Some of Dr. Faust's recent research on the toxin produced by B. thuringiensis has led to a means that may replace the bioassay method. Dr. Hosoe acted as interpreter.

Putting Research to Work

Dr. Kenneth A. Harrison, Plant Pathologist, Kentville, Nova Scotia, was appointed last summer as a Collaborator with the Mycology Laboratory. Dr. Harrison recently spent six weeks working with the stipitate Hydnaceae and poisonous mushrooms in the National Fungus Collections, which is the herbarium, literature, and technical data section of the Laboratory.

Mr. Mian Said, Director, Institute of Agricultural Research, Peshawar, Pakistan; and Dr. John Niederhauser, International Potato Center, La Molina, Peru, South America, visited Dr. R. E. Webb, Vegetable Laboratory, October 20 to develop a broad spectrum potato research program for possible sponsorship by the PL 480 program of IPD.

Mr. John C. Bouma, Leader of the Market Operations Research Laboratory and Mr. James N. Morris of that Laboratory were recently recognized by the International Foodservice Distributors Association. They were presented certificates for serving on the faculty of a Foodservice Warehousing Clinic held in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Robert F. Guilfooy, Mechanical Engineer, Transportation & Packaging Research Laboratory, recently returned from a meeting at Wageningen, Netherlands, in which needed research in transport refrigeration was inventoried and discussed. The meeting, at which 25 countries were represented, was cosponsored by two commissions of the International Institute of Refrigeration. While in Europe, Mr. Guilfooy also met with personnel of the ARS Rotterdam Laboratory.

Dr. H. E. Heggstad, Leader, Air Pollution Laboratory, was invited to present a seminar on October 25 on the subject "Air Pollution Damage to Plants" at the Campbell Institute for Agricultural Research, Cinnaminson, New Jersey. Air pollution injury is of increasing concern to this company as they pursue a program to improve the quality of vegetables.

An application for patenting attractants for yellowjacket wasps by T. P. McGovern and M. Beroza of our Agricultural Environmental Quality Institute and H. G. Davis and G. W. Eddy from the Western Region, has been approved by the Patent Office. Two companies are already using one of the patented attractants on the West Coast to combat local wasps. The wasps cause much difficulty in recreational areas and in orchards, where lured by fallen fruit they often prevent orchardists from harvesting their crop. Attractants in traps have alleviated these difficulties.

Mr. Herschel Klueter of the Light and Plant Growth Laboratory attended the Fifth National Meeting of the Bedding Plant Conference in Rochester, New York. Bedding plant growers told Mr. Klueter that they are using the guidelines for controlled environments developed by the Phyto-engineering Laboratory of the Agricultural Research Service. The technique now being used is producing superior plants and has helped in mechanization of their operations.

An automatic apple sorter using the light-transmittance principle has been delivered for acceptance testing. The Neotec Corporation under a contract with the Instrumentation Research Laboratory, constructed this device to separate apples on the basis of maturity (chlorophyll) and to detect the defect in apples known as watercore. The first tests will be conducted at Wenatchee, Washington on Golden Delicious apples.

Karl Norris, Leader, Instrumentation Research Laboratory, visited with members of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau November 15 to review plans for testing soybean analyzers. The analyzers will be used in a pilot program to market soybeans of guaranteed oil and protein content to overseas buyers. Soybeans stored by individual producers will be analyzed and combined according to moisture and composition for shipment overseas. Beans marketed in this manner are expected to command a good premium over those delivered by present practices.

"Comfrey yields and forage value," a correspondence aid written by Dr. Richard H. Hart of the Light and Plant Growth Laboratory, figured in a recent court case. A farmer in the State of Washington used information from this publication to show that a salesman had misrepresented comfrey as a wonder forage crop, and asked that the \$150 per acre that he had paid for planting stock be refunded. The judge awarded the farmer \$75, perhaps because he felt it was worth \$75 to the farmer to learn to be more skeptical of advertising claims.

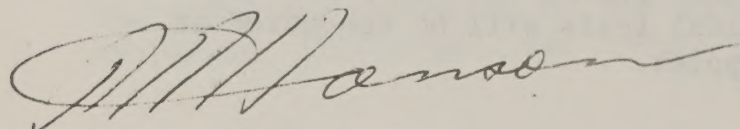
Toxicological data on eight insect attractants and one attractant inhibitor are being made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to companies wanting to use the information for registering products containing any of the chemicals. Five to seven tests were made on each chemical in line with USDA policy of securing Environmental Protection Agency registration of insect control chemicals developed or intended for use by USDA personnel in field or large-scale tests. The data on these chemicals may be obtained from Dr. Morton Beroza, Organic Chemical Synthesis Laboratory.

Visiting Dignitaries

Dr. F. W. Douvres, Zoologist at the Ruminant Helminthic Diseases Laboratory, was visited by Dr. R. G. Bruce of the Department of Zoology, The University of Glasgow, November 14-15. Dr. Bruce was interested in observing and discussing Dr. Douvres' techniques for in vitro cultivation of parasitic nematodes. Dr. Bruce also presented an informal seminar on the parasitological research program of the Glasgow group to members of the Animal Parasitology Institute.

General Information

On November 17, 1972, Arthur F. Sampson, Administrator of GSA, presented eleven "Certificates of Merit" to architectural firms for designing new Federal structures that respond to President Nixon's directive for excellence in design of public projects. The ceremony was the First Biennial Design Awards Program of GSA. One of these awards was presented to Rogers, Taliaferro, Kostisky and Lamb, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland, for the design of the Bioscience Building at the Agricultural Research Center-West at Beltsville. If you have not done so, take a walk through this unique and interesting research facility.



A. A. Hanson
Acting Area Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Northeastern Region
Agricultural Research Center
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

NOTES FROM THE AREA DIRECTOR

No. 5

December 21, 1972

Employee Information

Mr. Martin Jacobson, Leader of the Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, presented three invitational lectures at the USDA Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Illinois, on December 7-8. The subject was "Insect Control with Natural Products."

Dr. Rolland M. Waters, Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, represented the Department at a meeting of the Z88 Subcommittee on Respiratory Protection Against Pesticides, in Perrine, Florida, on December 8. Representatives of Government and industry discussed a proposed standard of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) pertaining to pesticide respiratory devices.

Mr. Victor E. Adler, Biologically Active Natural Products Laboratory, AEQI, attended the 2nd Technical Conference on the Neurophysiology of Insect Chemoreception on November 6-9 at Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. The conference is held annually to discuss recent advances in the field of insect electrophysiology of attractants and repellents.

On October 18-20, Mr. R. E. Redfern and Mrs. O. F. Bodenstein, Biological Evaluation of Chemicals Laboratory, PPI, attended the Eastern Branch, ESA Meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mrs. Bodenstein served as a member of the Registration and Hospitality Committee for this meeting.

Mr. Paul Machado, a graduate student from the University of Sao Paulo, is spending 3 months studying and assisting in research in the Plant Nematology Laboratory, Plant Protection Institute. He is receiving specialized training in physiological and histopathological aspects of nematology, which he will pursue upon his return to Brazil.

Dr. Paul R. Miller returned to Beltsville on December 1, 1972, after serving 2 years at Fort Valley College in Georgia, an 1890 land-grant institution. His assignment there, as USDA Liaison Officer, was to assist in upgrading the instructional, research and extension programs, with emphasis on agriculture and home economics. Dr. Miller is now associated with the Applied Plant Pathology Laboratory, Plant Protection Institute, where he will prepare a multilingual thesaurus of plant disease names, the purpose of which is to improve communication and understanding among plant pathologists internationally.

Honors and Awards

Dr. W. A. Gentner of the Pesticide Action Laboratory, Agricultural Environmental Quality Institute was elected Vice-President of the Northeastern Weed Science Society for 1973. He will become President in 1974. Dr. Gentner has conducted basic weed science research at Beltsville since 1955. He is presently evaluating the herbicidal properties of new chemicals and is in charge of research to develop methods for the chemical control of narcotic plants.

Cooperative Activities

Dr. David G. McHaffey, Biological Evaluation of Chemicals Laboratory, PPI, attended a research coordination meeting held at the USDA Boll Weevil Laboratory, State College Mississippi, December 12-13. The meeting was called to coordinate the efforts of those research personnel involved in the chemosterilant phase of the boll weevil eradication project. Those in attendance were: Dr. T. B. Davich; Dr. Norman Mitlin; Dr. Jack Haines; Dr. G. Wiygul, all of the Boll Weevil Laboratory, State College, Mississippi. Dr. Norman Earle, Cotton Insects Research Laboratory, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Dr. C. W. Woods, Insect Chemosterilant Laboratory, AEQI, Beltsville, Maryland.

Putting Research to Work

Mrs. O. F. Bodenstein, Biological Evaluation of Chemicals Laboratory, PPI, was invited to attend the meeting of the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association (CSMA) held in Miami Beach, Florida, December 2-7. She is a member of the Insect Scientific Committee of CSMA. In this capacity she represents ARS and our laboratory in advising on such matters as standardization of equipment, methods, insect strains, standard insecticides for comparison purposes to be used in developing safe and effective household aerosols and sprays for insect control.

During the last few months, Dr. Diener of the Plant Virology Laboratory gave a number of invitational lectures on viroids. Institutions visited include: the Universities of Kentucky and Wisconsin; Cornell University; VPI; the National Institutes of Health; Colorado State University (Sigma Xi lecture); the Children's Hospital Center, Boston; School of Medicine, University of North Carolina; Department of Cell Biology, Syracuse University; and Harvard Medical School. He also presented a lecture at the Goss Memorial Symposium on "Viruses and Viroids" held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dr. Russell L. Steere, Leader, Plant Virology Laboratory, was an invited lecturer at the Advanced Electron Microscopy course held at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Bethesda. He presented a lecture and demonstrated his latest procedures for preparing high-resolution, freeze-etch, freeze-fracture, and surface replicas of biological materials.

Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Steere spent three weeks annual leave in Europe, October 14 to November 5, where he was a guest participant of the French Electron Microscopy at a colloquium on Freeze-Etching in Paris (October 16-21) and presented invited lectures on "Stereo electron microscopy of freeze-etched, freeze-fractured, and freeze-dried specimens" at the colloquium in Paris, the University of Strasbourg (France), the University of Heidelberg (Germany), and Cambridge University, Oxford University, John Innes Institute (Norwich), and the National Institute of Medical Research at Mill Hill (England).

Dr. D. L. Klingman, Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute, and Mrs. Evelyn M. Osborne, Agricultural Environmental Quality Institute, represented the American National Standards Institute at the tenth plenary meeting of ISO Technical Committee 81 in London, England, November 21-24. ISO TC/81 approves international common names for pesticides and plant growth regulators and has published recommendations for approximately 300 common names to date.

The Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute of the Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, announces the release of two new cultivars of poinsettia, RUFF & REDDY which is red, and TRULYPINK which is salmon pink. These two cultivars are seedlings selected at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, by the staff of the Ornamentals Laboratory.

Drs. J. R. Plimmer and P. C. Kearney have been asked by the National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Hazardous Materials to present a paper on Control and Disposal of Pesticides at the American Chemical Society Meeting in Dallas, Texas, April 1973.

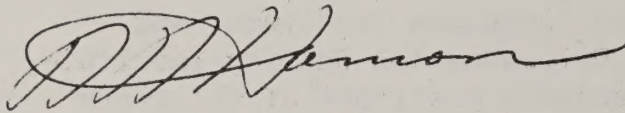
Dr. E. A. Woolson was invited to speak to the D. C. Section, Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine on "Arsenic in the Environment" at the meeting on November 16, 1972.

Drs. D. D. Kaufman and D. S. Frear represented ARS in a joint conference with EPA, FDA, USDA, NCI and industry (E. I. DuPont, Rohm and Haas, Niagara) concerned with determining the fate of ETU in the environment. ETU is a carcinogenic degradation product of the all important ethylene bisdithiocarbamate fungicides and has been detected in foodstuffs.

Visiting Dignitaries

A recent visitor to the Plant Virology Laboratory, Plant Protection Institute, was Professor E. L. Benedetti of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Institut de Biologie Moleculaire de la Faculte des Sciences de Paris. Accompanying Dr. Benedetti were Dr. H. Shinofuka and Dr. Joseph Martin of the Cancer Research Unit, Fells Research Institute, Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. They visited Dr. Steere to see his freeze-etch unit and learn how to obtain high-resolution platinum shadows for electron microscopy.

Another visitor to the Lab was Dr. R. H. Kimberlin of the Institute for Research on Animal Diseases, Agricultural Research Council, Compton, Berkshire, England. He visited Dr. Diener to discuss the latter's hypothesis that the elusive agent of the scrapie disease of sheep may be a viroid.



A. A. Hanson
Acting Area Director